

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 03235 211649Z
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10
OIC-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 /122 W
-----066572 211652Z /46

P 211646Z AUG 78
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2908
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY BAMAKO
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY FREETOWN
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
USINT HAVANA
AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY SUVA
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN NEW YORK 03235

E.O. 11652: GDS
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PAGE 02 USUN N 03235 211649Z

TAGS: PORG, PDEF, UNGA, RQ
SUBJECT: PUERTO RICO IN COMMITTEE OF 24

1. ON BASIS OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH COMMITTEE OF 24 (C-24)
MEMBERS HERE AND REACTIONS TO APPROACHES MADE IN CAPITALS,
OUR CURRENT TENTATIVE VOTE ESTIMATE ON A MOTION TO DEFER
CONSIDERATION OF PUERTO RICAN QUESTION FOR ONE YEAR IS

AS FOLLOWS:

- YES (9): AUSTRALIA, CHILE, FIJI, INDIA, INDONESIA, IRAN, IVORY COAST, SWEDEN, TUNISIA.

- NO (7): AFGHANISTAN, BULGARIA, CHINA, CUBA, CZECHOSLOVAKIA, IRAQ, USSR.

- PROBABLE ABSTENTION OR ABSENCE (4): MALI, TANZANIA, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, YUGOSLAVIA.

2. POSITIONS OF CONGO, ETHIOPIA, SIERRA LEONE, AND SYRIA REMAIN UNCLEAR. CONGO HAS BEEN NONCOMMITAL BOTH HERE AND IN BRAZZAVILLE. WE CAN PROBABLY HOPE FOR NOTHING BETTER THAN ABSENCE (AS IN 1977) SINCE ON BASIS NORMAL PERFORMANCE CONGO, IF PRESENT, WOULD VOTE NO. USUN 3227 MAKES CLEAR ETHIOPIAN POSITION NOT LIKELY TO BE KNOWN UNTIL JUST BEFORE VOTE. WE ESTIMATE BEST WE COULD ANTICIPATE IS ABSTENTION AND THAT IS NOT AT ALL CERTAIN. THERE REMAINS OUTSIDE CHANCE FOR SUPPORT OF DEFERRAL BUT WE CONSIDER THIS UNLIKELY. SIERRA LEONE REP TOLD MISOFF AUG 18 HE IS MAKING STRONG RECOMMENDATION FOR YES VOTE. THIS IN COMBINATION WITH INFO IN FREETOWN 2651 IS HOPEFUL SIGN. SYRIAN AMB AL-CHOUFI TOLD AMB LEONARD SYRIA WOULD BE ABSENT DURING VOTE. WE ARE NOT CERTAIN WE CAN COUNT ON THIS, HOWEVER, AS SYRIAN REP CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 USUN N 03235 211649Z

GLAIEL IS RAPPORTEUR OF C-24 AND WOULD FIND IT AWKWARD TO ABSENT HIMSELF. ABSTENTION MIGHT BE POSSIBILITY, ALTHOUGH IT WOULD BE CHANGE FROM PAST SYRIAN POSITION OF OPPOSITION TO DEFERRAL. WE WILL TRY TO PIN THIS DOWN MORE DEFINITELY. (AL-CHOUFI APPEARS TO HAVE MADE DECISION PERSONALLY, RATHER THAN TO BE ACTING ON INSTRUCTIONS. WE BELIEVE IT IS TO OUR ADVANTAGE TO KEEP FURTHER CONTACTS ON THIS QUESTION HERE IN NEW YORK, AS INSTRUCTIONS FROM DAMASCUS MIGHT NOT BE TO OUR LIKING.)

3. AUSTRALIAN REP (MORRIS) HAS TOLD US THAT HE IS AUTHORIZED TO PROPOSE DEFERRAL AS HE DID LAST YEAR. HE BELIEVES THAT IT IS WORTH "GOING FOR BROKE" ON SEEKING DEFERRAL. WE INFORMALLY ASKED HIS VIEW ON POSSIBLE FALLBACK PROPOSAL THAT MIGHT REAFFIRM RIGHT OF PUERTO RICANS TO SELF-DETERMINATION AND INDEPENDENCE AND ASK C-24 RAPPORTEUR TO UP-DATE HIS REPORT (LAST UP-DATED AS RESULT OF 1976 C-24 CONSENSUS). HE THOUGHT THIS WAS GOOD IDEA TO KEEP IN MIND AS FALLBACK, WAITING TO SEE HOW THINGS DEVELOP IN THE COMMITTEE. LEONARD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: VOTING, INDEPENDENCE, MEETING AGENDA, COMMITTEES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978USUNN03235
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780341-0500
Format: TEL
From: USUN NEW YORK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780840/aaaabhfl.tel
Line Count: 114
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 040ddd5f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1671101
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PUERTO RICO IN COMMITTEE OF 24
TAGS: PORG, PDEV, RQ, UNGA, COMMITTEE OF 24
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/040ddd5f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014